

FISCAL NOTE

SB 391 - HB 1045

January 20, 2004

SUMMARY OF BILL:

1. Requires the Division of Forestry to:
 - initiate development of an assessment model sufficient to support local, regional and statewide forest resource analyses in order to assess and understand sustainable forest resource utilization opportunities.
 - establish a statewide forest inventory and assessment program that assesses general forest conditions every five years and evaluates other appropriate criteria on an annual basis.
 - prepare two annual reports concerning the development of a forest resource inventory and assessment model to be submitted to the members of the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee and the House Agriculture Committee no later than February 1, 2004 and February 1, 2005, respectively.
2. Requires the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture to:
 - evaluate the feasibility of establishing a forest products laboratory and technology development center to conduct appropriate research, development and demonstration activities that assess wood fiber and other forest product utilization opportunities for the state's forest resource.
 - prepare a report to the members of the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee and the House Agriculture Committee no later the February 1, 2004.
3. Requires the State Forestry Commission, in cooperation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, to evaluate alternative funding sources for the division in order to support the programs and services of the division. The Commission must report its findings and recommendations to the members of the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee and the House Agriculture Committee no later than February 1, 2004.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant

Estimate assumes any cost to implement the provisions of this bill can be absorbed with existing budgeted resources. Certain components in the bill have already been implemented by the Department of Agriculture as well as the University of Tennessee.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director